



## Commission Action

November 7, 2019

---

<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Second Division Memorial Modification</b> President's Park Constitution Avenue, NW & 17th Street, NW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8120
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.31(73.10)45017
<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8905	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of comments on concept plans
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approved comments on concept plans

---

The Commission:

**Notes** the original memorial included the central panel with sculpture and architectural frame, and it was later expanded with two wing walls that share similar material and treatments.

**Notes** the memorial will be expanded to include the names of specific campaigns, but not individual names.

**Finds** Options A, B, and C do not alter the footprint of the memorial. Each includes the addition of two new stone plinths in varying sizes and locations. However, the locations of the new plinths create "pinch points" for pedestrian circulation and do not allow sufficient space for gathering within the memorial platform. The original memorial elements would be altered in these options.

**Supports** Option D as the preferred approach, even though it alters the memorial design, because the addition is consistent with the previous approaches to the memorial's expansion; does not create "pinch points" for pedestrian movement; reinforces the front of the memorial; and creates a gathering area within the memorial for visitors and small ceremonies.

**Notes** that due to existing steps and a lack of walkway to the site, the memorial is not currently accessible to those of all abilities.

**Supports** re-grading the site to allow for direct, level access to the memorial from the side panels, while retaining the more ceremonial steps at the center of the memorial platform (Option D1).

Regarding the pathway design:

**Finds** the open grassy field is a character-defining feature that is important to the setting of the memorial, and therefore a linear path is not appropriate as it would alter this setting.

---

**Notes** the curvilinear path has a form similar to many of the secondary paths within President's Park South, and this alignment would preserve the setting of the memorial within the lawn, but the wide arc of the path may lead to pedestrians cutting across the lawn.

**Recommends** evaluating a pathway option that accesses the memorial from the side panels, but where at least one leg of the pathway is more directly connected to Constitution Avenue to preclude pedestrians from cutting across the lawn.

---

Julia A. Koster  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission

